

Written Testimony
David Scata, Executive Director of ConnCASE
Education Committee
3/17/2014

Raised Bill No. 5562 AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann, and Distinguished Members of the Education Committee; my name is David Scata, Executive Director of ConnCASE . ConnCASE represents over two hundred public school administrators of special education in the state of Connecticut.

Raised Bill 5562 “*An Act Concerning Special Education*”

Statement of Purpose:

To include dyslexia on the individualized education program form, to require boards of education to inform parents and guardians of their right to withhold enrolling their child in kindergarten and to create a three tier funding scheme for excess cost payments.

The intent of this written testimony is to address the inclusion of dyslexia on the individualized education program form. At present, disabilities eligible for special education services under IDEA or Connecticut statutes are as listed below.

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| (01) Intellectual Disability (ID | (06) Orthopedic Impairment | (10) Multiple Disabilities |
| (02) Hearing Impairment | (07) Other Health Impairment | (11) Autism |
| (Deaf or Hard of Hearing) | (7A) ADD/ADHD | (12) Traumatic Brain Injury |
| (03) Speech or Language | (Sub-Category of OHI) | (15) Developmental Delay |
| Impairment | (08) Specific Learning Disability | (Ages 3 to 5 only) |
| (04) Visual Impairment | (09) Deaf-Blindness | |
| (05) Emotional Disturbance | | |

The concern with adding the term dyslexia which is related only to a reading disability is a narrow interpretation of a student with a Specific Learning Disability. I would question why stop with the term dyslexia and not try to add other terms such as dysgraphia, or dyscalculia under the SLD label or apraxia under Speech and Language. The State of Connecticut should be fully aligned with the Federal Law IDEA and not try to add additional requirements especially when already addressed under the category of Specific Learning Disability.

Thank you,
David Scata
Executive Director of ConnCASE